

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Life in Slovakia is growing more difficult daily. The STB, which is the secret political police, issues new police regulations constantly. By employing "tenners", i.e., Communist confidants who are in charge of ten persons each, the STB has made sure that there is at least one reliable party member in each house to inform it of the activities of non-Communists and their relatives. Reports are submitted by these "tenners" every week and in more important cases immediately, and these informers are well paid. Frequently, the police search apartments and even occupy entire blocks without result after unsubstantiated denunciations by these "tenners". People are afraid to talk and they avoid association.
2. Those opposed to the regime meet, inconspicuously, in private apartments. They help one another to maintain their spirit of resistance and to arrange actual resistance against the regime. Public social intercourse exists only within the party, and any non-Communist risks discovery or denunciation in such circles. It often happens that when one person's wife is better dressed than is a party official's wife, the apartment of the former is searched and the husband arrested, and if he is lucky, he is only fined and his apartment confiscated.
3. Plays, concerts and films are so tendentious that non-Communists can scarcely endure the complete performance. Students, who usually demonstrate by catcalls and boos, are arrested in large numbers. Since parents are held responsible for their children, they are also usually imprisoned. When the American Information Office was showing American newsreels, children were beaten after they left the theater and their parents had to report to the STB on the following day.
4. Persecutions in the rural areas are as bad as in the cities. Here the party members and the organs of the various economic offices terrorize the population. Various traps are set to induce farmers to commit minor infractions of regulations, and then their properties are confiscated and sold to Communists. An ever larger number of fugitives is hiding in the mountains, some of them escaping from labor camps and others avoiding arrest. Partisans and fugitives have been identified in the regions of Liptovsky Svätý Mikuláš, Ružomberok, and generally in the low Tatra range.

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5. The fight against the church continues. The new priests, put into office by the Communist Party, are making a farce of religion. Priests, monks, and nuns who have been arrested for opposing the regime are led through the streets as warnings. People meet in quiet places to copy pastoral letters, which they then pass on to their friends.
6. Relations between the Czechs and the Slovaks are deteriorating. The Communists are sending Czech troops to Slovakia. For example, the Petralka bridgehead is held by units of the 4th Parachute Division from As.* Personnel of the hated police are also Czechs, and this naturally increases the bad feelings towards the Czechs. As a result, many people are becoming supporters of the Hlinka gang again. A large number of unimportant Communists are especially susceptible, and frequently drunken Communists, wearing the party badge, curse the Communists and sing Hlinka-guard martial songs. The Tiso-Hlinka supporters are consequently increasing in numbers in Slovakia, and one often hears that conditions were all right under Tiso but that everything has gone to the dogs since the Czechs returned.
7. There used to be much anti-Semitism in Slovakia, but at the present time the Slovaks say: "We shall first settle matters with the Czechs and then get busy with the Jews". All efforts of the regime to foster Czech and Slovak understanding remain futile, primarily because it is the Communist regime that is making them. The Communist Party has sown so much hatred that it will be a drawn-out affair to eradicate the anti-Czech feelings resulting from it.
- 25X1C 8. In contradiction to the above report of anti-Czech feeling in Slovakia, a report [redacted] states that the more intelligent Czechs and Slovaks in the army are being drawn closer together. This is partly a result of the openly anti-Communist attitude assumed by the Czech bishops, since most of the Slovaks are devoted Catholics.
- 25X1A * [redacted] Comment: There is no previous information on the 4th Parachute Division at As.

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